IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) An elevator ~~rail joint detecting device~~ apparatus according to [claim 1]claim 6, wherein:

the joint detecting portion has a light projecting portion for irradiating a light beam to a surface of the guide rail, and a light receiving portion for receiving a part of a reflected light beam of the light beam irradiated to the joint, the light receiving portion being placed to avoid interference with an optical path of a reflected light beam of the light beam as specularly reflected by the surface of the guide rail; and

the joint determining portion determines the ~~presence/absence~~ existence of the joint based on information [[on]] of an amount of light received by the light receiving portion.

3. (Currently Amended) An elevator ~~rail joint detecting device~~ apparatus according to [claim 1]claim 6, wherein:

the joint detecting portion ~~has:~~ includes:

a light irradiating portion for irradiating a plurality of light beams to a surface of the guide rail;

a plurality of light receiving portions, each for receiving a part of a reflected light beam of each of the light beams irradiated to the joint, the plurality of light receiving portions each being placed to avoid interference with an optical path of a reflected light beam of each of the light beams as specularly reflected by the guide rail; and

an imaging optical system for imaging each of the reflected light beams to each of the light receiving portions,[[;]] and

the joint determining portion determines the ~~presence/absence~~ existence of the joint based on information [[on]] of an amount of light received by each of the light receiving portions.

4. (Currently Amended) An elevator ~~rail joint detecting device~~ apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the light projecting portion irradiates the light beam in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the guide rail.

5. (Currently Amended) An elevator ~~rail joint detecting device~~ apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

a polarization direction of the light beam irradiated from the light projecting portion is P-polarization; and

an incident angle of the light beam on the surface of the guide rail is a Brewster angle.

6. (Currently Amended) An elevator apparatus, ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

a guide rail having a plurality of unit rails that are vertically connected to each other;

a car guided by the guide rail;

a rail joint detecting device [[having]] including:

a joint detecting portion opposed to the guide rail for ~~and provided to~~ the car, for detecting presence of a joint of the unit rails which is between each of the unit rails; and

a joint determining portion for determining ~~presence/absence~~ an existence of the joint of the unit rails based on information from the joint detecting portion;

a car position detecting portion for detecting a position of the car;

a car position correcting portion for correcting information on the position of the car from the car position detecting portion based on information from the joint determining portion; and

a control device for controlling operation of an elevator based on information on the position of the car from the car position correcting portion.

7. (Currently Amended) An elevator ~~rail joint detecting device~~ apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the light [[projecting]] irradiating portion irradiates the light beams [[beam]] in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the guide rail.

8. (Currently Amended) An elevator ~~rail joint detecting device~~ apparatus according to claim 3, wherein:

a polarization direction of the light beams [[beam]] irradiated from the light irradiating [[projecting]] portion is P-polarization; and

an incident angle of the light beams [[beam]] on the surface of the guide rail is a Brewster angle.